

folia). The waste ground along the Thames estuary in Essex and Kent are good areas. The larvae hibernate in one cocoon and then appear to wander elsewhere early in the spring to pupate. Soon after hibernation, the material bearing their cocoons must therefore be placed in a stout container.

In late September and early October, the mines of *Phyllonorycter comparella* Dup. and the recently discovered *P. sagitella* Bjerk. may be found on white poplar and aspen respectively. The former species also feeds on black poplar. Unlike other species of *Phyllonorycter*, these two must be collected now since the adults emerge in early October and then hibernate (WATKINSON).

To those who propose to collect second brood *Nepticula* mines, I would suggest that they overhaul their breeding apparatus in good time, cleaning used tubes and preparing a supply of mixed sand and peat or of chopped sphagnum moss, sterilised by heating in a vessel suspended in a saucepan of boiling water.

Nepticula larvae as a general rule, spend a very short time in the mine, and they may have left and wandered away if time has to be spent in preparing quarters for them on return from a collecting trip. Before setting out, I have my breeding tubes standing ready with a supply of sand and peat mixed in a plastic bag.

More larvae may be accommodated in a tube if the unwanted part of the leaf be cut away with scissors. The mined portions being arranged round the side of the tube with the midrib end buried in the peat mixture. Keep the tubes corked until the larvae have left the mines, then cover tubes with a piece of nylon stocking, kept in place by a copper wire ring made by turning the wire once round the tube and twisting the ends together. When emergence time is near, replace the nylon with a square of glass. Be moderate with moistening, and stop at once should any mildew appear.

When imagines appear, open the tube by a closed window, and when the moth flies on to the window towards the light, cover it with a tube or pillbox into which a drop of ethyl acetate has been placed. When dead, it is ready for immediate setting with no rigor to contend with. September onwards should provide many species (JACOBS).

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

SEXUAL DIMORPHISM IN *CARTEROCEPHALUS PALAEMON* L.
— Last year whilst examining this skipper in its Scottish localities, I was surprised to note a difference in the sexes to which I can find no reference in the literature. The underside of the club of the antenna at its base is bright yellow in male and black in the female. The same distinction, so I have found subsequently, extends to English examples of this insect. Besides being rather striking, the difference appears to be quite constant and permits unequivocal sexual identification. — T. W. C. TOLMAN, 1 Clanfield Drive, Chandler's Ford, Hants. SO5 2HJ.